AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 24 to read as follows:

The R, G and B digital signals outputted from the scanner 12 are sent to the data processing section 48, where they are subjected to specified data processing steps such as dark correction, defective pixel correction and ~~shaing~~ shaving correction. Thereafter, the processed digital signals are transferred into the log converter 50, where they are converted to digital form (density data), of which prescanned data is stored in the prescan memory 52 and fine scanned data is stored in the fine scan memory 54.

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.

~~The method~~Method and device for extracting a specified image subject ~~change~~including an extracting condition of an extracting algorithm of a subsequent stage so as to be adapted to an extraction result by the extracting algorithm of a precedent stage, when~~a plurality of~~ specified image subject extracting algorithms are successively implemented. ~~Moreover, at~~At the time of performing ~~a plurality of~~the specified image subject extracting algorithms in each ~~of a plurality of stages~~stage by ~~means of~~parallel processing, ~~these~~the method and device manage extraction states of each step and qualify extraction processing conditions in the subsequent stage in accordance with the extraction states in the precedent stages. ~~Further these~~The method and device perform a vote in an N-dimensional space of image characteristic quantity for each extraction area by the specified image subject extracting algorithm and then perform weighting of degree of certainty as the specified image subject based on an aggregation value of the vote within a section area for aggregation in the N-dimensional space. ~~As a result, these method and device perform the specified image subject extraction with a high precision and good efficiency in correspondence with various states of images in a digital or analog photoprinter.~~